

intellect, with which to think and find out the way towards the realisation of his Godhead, and even if his mundane ambitions and desires for a time distract his attention from God, ultimately the spirit wins and man resumes his quest of God.

When India was spiritually great, there was no poverty as one sees today. True spirituality always gives a greater sense of responsibility. It makes the nation strong and prosperous. It is the Godless doctrines that promote mutual hatred, class war and distribution of poverty. The Indian's thirst for wisdom, for positive religion, for a practical spiritual life, ought to be met in the right way, if the nation is really to live. Degeneration of the spiritual life in India was a contributive factor to its decline.

IF INDIA IS SPIRITUALLY ALIVE, IT WILL AGAIN REGAIN
ITS CREATIVE FORCE AND PROSPERITY.

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His Holiness

The late SRI SWAMI SIVANANDA'S

thoughts on

EDUCATION

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President of the Branch
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Roshanara - Mercara - Coorg
Mysore State.

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EDUCATION

Extract from Swami Sivananda's Book — on "Religious Education"
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IDEALS OF EDUCATION

The child's education begins from the day it sees the light of the day. It can even be said that it begins in the mother's womb. Whatever habit of thought, action and feeling is formed in a man's early days, it lasts through his life. A child's moral future is sown in his childhood, though he is likely to be influenced by good and bad contacts in his early youth and manhood.

The ideal of education is man-making, character-making. Education develops the intelligence and trains the emotions. It must give one a sterling character. Without character all else is of no avail. No education, which neglects the important aspects of the human life, is complete and worth its name. Education must develop one's personality, initiative, courage, qualities of heart and good manners.

Education also means training the students to behave properly, to practise self-restraint, to serve humanity, and to love God. Character is destiny. Therefore build up your character. You cannot have a great nation with men of low character. Real education is education of man as man.

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Education should prepare the students to be truthful, humble, pure, courageous, self-controlled, compassionate. It should instil in their hearts the ideal of selflessness.

A well-adjusted and balanced study of the fundamental human nature should constitute a part of education. The concept of education is not static. One must move with the times. There should be necessary adjustment to the changing conditions of society, and the outlook should always be kept progressive. Science and technology should have equal status with humanities. One must live in the present with eyes to the future, and be imbued by a persevering zest to progress rapidly, rather than vaingloriously ruminate over a bygone past while doing nothing to better one's lot.

DUTY OF PARENTS

Parents should lead an ideal life. Then alone their children can emulate them profitably. If they have wrong and evil habits, their children also will imitate those qualities. Children have got a great capacity of imitation. Parents should watch the ways and habits of their children and see that they have good company. Parents have got a very responsible duty of training their children. If they do not want to take up this responsibility, they should stop procreation. Early marriages must not be encouraged. The students must complete their education first and then enter household life. There should be physical, mental and emotional maturity before one gets married.

Education of children is by far the greatest and the most noble nation-building activity. For, as the wise saying

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should be real love between the teacher and the student. The teaching profession should not be merely commercial. There should be the relationship of a father and son between the teacher and the student. Then only can real education be imparted.

It is the duty of the educational authorities, the public at large, to see that the students are not led astray by false doctrines of oppression and regimentation of thought. The demagogues of materialism, whose roots lie, not in the soil of the nation, but elsewhere, can never serve the interests of the people. The vainglorious, the timid, who revel in unrealistic slogans and personal addiction to foreign, Godless dogmas, can never give the right leadership to the people. The students must wake up to their responsibility of being Indians first, as upholders of their integral culture, of Dharma, of justice, truth and love, of spiritual values.

SPIRITUAL VALUES

Conditions prevailing throughout the world today unmistakably demonstrate the truth that material advancement alone does not mean advancement towards peace and harmony. Material welfare does not give one inner contentment though it might to a certain extent, help to the achievement of that contentment, as it saves one from the struggle for one's daily bread, and consequently provides one with greater opportunities for diving within and for discovering the inner peace. But mankind does not live by bread alone. The secret lies in the fact that man, often unconsciously, strives to achieve God-head, for God has given him the grace of

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goes—what the child learns “in the cradle,” and the habits that he forms in childhood, follow him throughout the life. Healthy intelligent and wise young men, women of good character, endowed with divine virtues, are an invaluable asset to the nation,—in fact, the nation’s greatest asset. These young men and women who have received the right type of training in their childhood will bring forth, in their turn, worthy and noble children who will in their own age raise the nation’s prestige and honour in the eyes of the world, and contribute to its glory.

Mother has a very responsible role in the education of her children. Equally important is the role of women teachers at kindergartens. There is something that a woman can do to the child that a man cannot. Woman is man’s first Guru. God has fitted her admirably to fulfil this glorious role. In her, the heart is well-developed for educating the child. She can ‘talk’ to the heart of the child. The child, too, will readily accept, and assimilate her lessons; the child has more confidence in the mother. The mother wins the child’s heart! From heart to heart — the lessons are deeply imbedded in the very being of the child.

DUTY OF TEACHERS AND THE STUDENTS

There should be adequate contacts outside the class hours between the teachers and the students. They should maintain very good relationship. Students should concentrate their attention on studies and not bother about political agitations. The teachers must possess some measure of selflessness and responsibility for the welfare of the students. There